

50X1 **CONFIDENTIAL****REPORT NO.** [REDACTED]

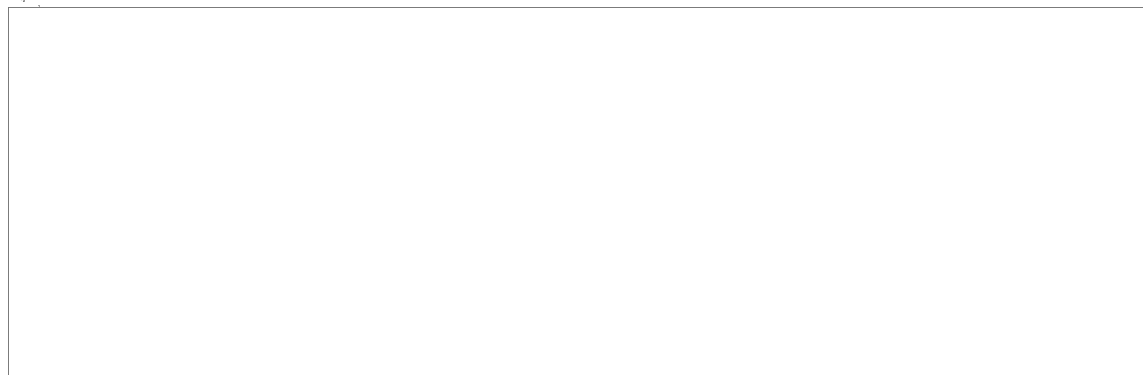
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COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)**DATE DISTR.** 4 Feb. 1954**SUBJECT** Lifting of Fraternization Ban for Soviet Army Personnel in Germany**NO. OF PAGES** 3**DATE OF INFORMATION** [REDACTED]

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REFERENCES:**PLACE ACQUIRED** [REDACTED]**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

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1. In September 1953 [REDACTED] 50X1
 50X1 [REDACTED] an order by Marshal [REDACTED] BULGANIN,
 50X1 Minister of USSR Armed Forces, was read before the formation. [REDACTED]
 50X1 [REDACTED] this was Order No. 00145.

This order permitted Soviet officers and EM to leave the barracks area in their free time and to mingle freely with the German population. The order did not set any rules for the implementation of this new policy; it did not prescribe the hours for EM passes or the frequency with which they would be given.

2. In the 68th Guards Medium Tank Regiment permission to mingle with the German population worked in the following way. It was the responsibility of company commanders to determine which soldiers would be given permission to go to town; in this way permission was granted only to those EM who distinguished themselves in political training, on the firing range, or in general behavior. [REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED] the regimental commander's order stated that 15% of the unit could be given permission to go to town at one time. Saturday afternoons and Sundays were to be used for this purpose in the following way: Saturday; from 1600 to 2200 hours; Sunday, from 1000 to 1400 hours, and again from 1600 to 2200 hours. At no time was the authorization to go to town given on week days.

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3. Practically speaking, the system worked as follows: one officer was put in charge of a group of soldiers who had been given permission to go to town. Individual soldiers were never given passes to go to town by themselves without an officer escort. A group normally consisted of from 8 to 10 men. The officer in charge was issued a group pass covering all soldiers assigned to his group. The officer in charge (normally a platoon leader, deputy company commander for political matters, or deputy company commander for technical matters) was responsible for all soldiers in his group. The soldiers did not march in formation on their way to town but walked together on the sidewalk closely following the escort officer. It was strictly forbidden for an individual to leave the group and walk alone. There was no prohibition, however, against addressing a German passer-by and exchanging a few words, or against stopping for a minute or so for window shopping, providing the soldier did not lose the group.
4. Usually the escort officer would take the group to a German movie, to the theater, or to a dance hall; but each soldier would pay for his own ticket. The officer in charge usually asked the group what they would like to do or where they would like to go while in town. The decision of the majority was binding on the entire group. When the group decided to go to a dance hall they would enter and sit at one or two tables to watch the dancing. There was no prohibition against a soldier asking a German girl to dance either once or several times, providing it was done under the surveillance of the escort officer and that no incident of any kind resulted from the act (quite a number of German women still had some fear of Soviet soldiers and showed a reluctance to accept an invitation to dance). No alcoholic beverages, not even beer, could be consumed while in town. When it was time to leave and to return to the barracks the officer in charge would order the soldiers in the group to get up and follow him. There were stiff disciplinary penalties, amounting to 10 or 15 days of solitary confinement in the guard house, given to those soldiers who failed to return to the barracks with their group. [redacted] 50X1
- [redacted] he was held personally responsible for such laxity in the performance of his duty.
5. After two weeks of the new policy no more group passes were given to EM in the 68th Guards Medium Tank Regiment. The EM were given various reasons for this change of orders; namely, that the regimental CO had to go to the Berlin Komendatura to pick up a drunken EM from the unit, and there was a danger when a Soviet soldier got drunk that Western spies or agents would be able to obtain military information from him or lure him by various pretexts to the Western sectors of Berlin.
6. During the two weekends when EM of the 68th Regiment were permitted to leave the barracks, only seven or eight soldiers in my company were given group passes. Three of these soldiers were taken to town on both weekends. [redacted] none of these soldiers got drunk while in town, fraternized, became involved in a brawl, behaved in a disorderly way, or overstayed his pass. If any incidents took place involving soldiers in town, they certainly did not include any soldiers belonging to my company. [redacted] 50X1
- [redacted] the German women did not fraternize much with Soviet soldiers. [redacted] the German women would run away in terror if they encountered Soviet soldiers in the evening in dark or deserted places.
7. [redacted] 50X1
- [redacted] a similar policy applied to other Soviet Army units stationed in East Berlin.

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- 50X1 8. In October 1953 [] received some replacements from the Tank Training Battalion in Bernau /N 52-40, E 13-357. These new soldiers were surprised to learn about the restrictions imposed on the pass policy in Berlin and told us that in Bernau they were often issued individual passes, and that they went to various German places without an officer escort. However, they were not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages while on pass.
9. The Marshal BULGANIN order of September 1953 lifting the fraternization ban for Soviet Army personnel in Germany was accepted by the soldiers with enthusiasm. The practical implementation of this decree, however, soon disappointed and discouraged them. The group pass, the escort officer, and other numerous restrictions imposed on freedom of movement while on pass, destroyed the initial enthusiasm with which Marshal BULGANIN's order had been received. The greatest dissatisfaction in this respect was caused by the way in which the individual soldiers were selected for passes. Almost exclusively, passes were given to active Komsomol members, soldiers who were outstanding in political training, and those who tried to excel in some way in order to gain benefits for themselves from superiors. Under such an application of Marshal BULGANIN's order, the ordinary soldier did not have a chance to go to town and, as before, was permanently restricted to the barracks area.
- 50X1 10. [] Marshal BULGANIN's order also gave authorization to officers to be out of the barracks area during off duty hours. In this way officers could communicate freely with the Germans, visit German establishments, and even do some drinking in German places.

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